

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 IO-14 SS-20 L-03 INR-10 DRC-01

RSC-01 /066 W
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R 311030Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 229

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 1718

STADIS//////////

FOR EA/TB DEXTER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MILI, TH
SUBJECT: SOYBEANS

REF: A) BANGKOK 538; B) STATE 12790; C) BANGKOK 1216

1. DENNIS DOOLIN GAVE US STRONG SUPPORT IN TRYING TO GAIN DOD APPROVAL FOR NONREIMBURSEABLE SPACE-AVAILABLE AIR SHIPMENT OF SOYBEANS FOR THE SUPREME COMMAND PROJECT IN NORTH THAILAND. JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE LAST SUNDAY, HOWEVER, HE TOLD ME HE HAD JUST TALKED WITH WASHINGTON AND HAD TO REPORT THAT THERE SEEMED NO WAY TO HANDLE THIS THROUGH DOD. I ALSO DISCUSSED THIS AT SOME LENGTH WITH GENERAL O'KEEFE AT USSAG LAST WEEK; ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THERE IS UNUSED SPACE AVAILABLE ON THE KC 135 TANKERS ROTATING THROUGH UTAPAO, HE REAFFIRMED THAT HE HAD FOUND NO WAY THAT SAC COULD HELP US WITHOUT DOD AUTHORIZATION.

2. WE ARE NOW HARD UP AGAINST THE PLANTING DEADLINE, WITH KRIANGSAK READING OUR REACTION TO HIS LONG-STANDING REQUEST AS A TOUCHSTONE OF OUR WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO MEET EXTRAORDINARY REQUESTS FROM OUR THAI HOSTS. THE US MILITARY GRATUITOUSLY GOT US INTO THIS HASSLE WELL BEFORE MY ARRIVAL AND HAS NOW LET US DOWN, DESPITE THE SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS THEY RECEIVE FROM OUR CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH SUPREME COMMAND. THE ISSUE

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OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOYBEAN PROJECT HAS NOW BECOME A QUESTION OF

THE GOOD FAITH OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

3. RELUCTANTLY I CONCLUDE THAT WE MUST PURSUE THE AVENUE YOU SUGGESTED (REF B) AND SEEK SOME OTHER FUNDS, PERHAPS FROM NARCOTICS PROGRAMS, FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY SHIPMENT. IN ADDITION TO OUR REF C, PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY RETURN CABLE WHETHER FURTHER JUSTIFICATION, OR STATEMENT FROM SUPREME COMMAND WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT IMMEDIATE ACTION TO START AT LEAST SOME OF THESE SOYBEAN SEEDS MOVING TO THAILAND AND JUSTIFY THE USE OF NARCOTICS MONEY FOR THIS PURPOSE. STILL BELIEVE THE USG HAS THE CAPACITY TO HONOR A COMMITMENT MADE ALMOST THREE MONTHS AGO IN ITS BEHALF BY A SENIOR US REPRESENTATIVE.

KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, DRUG CONTROL, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, SOYBEANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO01718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974014/aaaaacse.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: A) BANGKOK 538; B) STATE 12790; C) B, ANGKOK 1216
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOYBEANS
TAGS: SNAR, MILI, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005